

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7 and 12 are canceled. Claims 2-4, 6, 8, 10, 11, and 13-15 are amended. Claims 21-25 are added. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and forwarding of 5 the application on to issuance.

Specification Amendment

The specification has been amended to call out the serial numbers and patent numbers of the applications referenced in the "Related Applications" 10 section appearing on page 1 of the specification.

Allowable Claims

Claims 16, 17, 19 and 20 are indicated by the Office as allowable. Additionally, claims 2, 6, 8, 9, 13 and 14 are objected to as dependent on a 15 rejected base claim, but are otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Office for the indication of allowable subject matter.

The claims have been amended to place them in condition for allowance. Accordingly, those claims that were previously rejected have been canceled for 20 no other reason than to place this application in condition for allowance so that a patent may issue and the public may benefit. As such, Applicant reserves its right to file a continuation to pursue the previously rejected claims.

Specifically, claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of claim 1 from which it formerly depended. 25 Accordingly, this claim is now in allowed form.

Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to change their dependencies to claim 2. As these claims depend from an allowable claim, these claims should be summarily allowed.

5 **Claim 6** has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of claim 1 from which it formerly depended. Accordingly, this claim is now in allowed form. **Claims 22-24** have been added and depend either directly or indirectly from claim 6. As these claims depend from an allowable claim, they should be summarily allowed.

10 **Claim 8** has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of claim 7 from which it formerly depended. Accordingly, this claim is now in allowed form.

Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to change their dependencies from claim 7 to claim 8. As these claims depend from an allowable claim, they should be summarily allowed.

15 **Claim 13** has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of claim 12 from which it formerly depended. Accordingly, this claim is now in allowed form.

Claim 25 has been added and depends from claim 13. As this claim depends from an allowable claim, it should be summarily allowed.

20 **Claim 14** has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of claim 12 from which it formerly depended. Accordingly, this claim is now in allowed form.

25 **Claim 15** has been amended to change its dependency from claim 12 to claim 14. As this claim depends from an allowable claim, it should be summarily allowed.

A note on claim 18. This claim was previously rejected under an obviousness type double patenting rejection. As this claim depends from an

allowable claim (claim 17 and, in turn, claim 16), Applicant believes the Office inadvertently rejected this claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully solicits withdrawal of the rejection of this claim.

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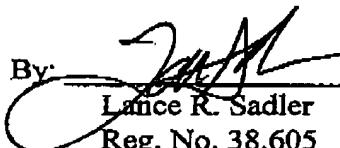
Conclusion

All of the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowability be issued forthwith.

Respectfully Submitted,

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